

# NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



## AS I SEE IT

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### **Take Time to Thank a Teacher**

*November 18, 2010*

Do you remember that bumper sticker that said, "If you can read this, thank a teacher!"? The question is, have you? If not, you should.

Thank you is a simple enough phrase that carries with it the power to uplift and re-energize all who hear it.

While pay raises are a good way to recognize the hard work of teachers and other educators, the state's economy over the past few years has not permitted us to grant them. It doesn't look like this year is going to be any different.

That is why now, more than ever, it is important to find ways to express our gratitude for the efforts teachers are expending on behalf of the 1.5 million North Carolina public school students.

Recognition programs provide one way to thank and highlight exemplary teachers. The AT&T North Carolina Teacher of the Year Program enables schools, districts and the state to recognize outstanding teachers who are making a difference in our public schools. National recognition programs such as the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and The Milken Family Foundation Educator Award provide another way to recognize exceptional educators for jobs well done.

Yet these types of recognition programs provide only limited opportunities to thank a very small fraction of the state's 90,000 plus public school teachers. This is why it is so important that each of us take a moment today to thank the teachers who are working so hard for our children.

Teachers shape the future. They mold our workforce and train our nation's and state's next leaders. They need to know just how much we appreciate their efforts.

Bill Harrison, Chairman  
State Board of Education